

**2017 General Session**  
**Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee**  
**Related Bills Passed**

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel — May 2017

**H.B. 5                    Retirement and Independent Entities Base Budget (*Rep. L. Christensen and Sen. D. Hemmert*)**

This bill supplements or reduces appropriations previously provided for the use and operation of state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; and appropriates funds for the support and operation of state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018.

This bill:

- ▶ provides appropriations for the use and support of certain state agencies;
- ▶ provides appropriations for other purposes as described;
- ▶ approves employment levels for internal service funds; and
- ▶ approves capital acquisition amounts for internal service funds.

This bill appropriates (\$62,400) in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2017, including:

- ▶ (\$42,400) from the General Fund;
- ▶ (\$20,000) from various sources as detailed in this bill.

This bill appropriates \$45,870,800 in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2018, including:

- ▶ \$1,080,100 from the General Fund;
- ▶ \$22,275,400 from the Education Fund;
- ▶ \$22,515,300 from various sources as detailed in this bill.

This bill appropriates \$14,223,700 in business-like activities for fiscal year 2018.

**H.B. 28                    Public Employees Long-Term Disability Act Amendments (*Rep. S. Duckworth and Sen. K. Mayne*)**

This bill modifies the Public Employees' Long-Term Disability Act by amending provisions relating to long-term disability benefits.

This bill:

- ▶ modifies the circumstances when a monthly long-term disability benefit shall be reduced or reimbursed;
- ▶ requires an eligible employee that is under a total disability to inform the Public Employees' Insurance Program of certain information;
- ▶ provides penalties if an eligible employee knowingly misrepresents or fails to disclose certain information; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**H.B. 165                    Higher Education Retirement Amendments (*Rep. J. Westwood and Sen. E. Vickers*)**

This bill modifies the Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act by amending provisions relating to higher education retirement participation.

This bill:

- ▶ provides definitions;
- ▶ provides that the Board of Directors of each applied technology college, rather than the State Board of

- Regents, shall designate the public or private retirement systems, organizations, or companies that a regular full-time employee of each applied technology college is eligible to participate in under certain retirement systems or plans; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**H.B. 282      State Fair Park Board Amendments (*Rep. M. Schultz and Sen. K. Van Tassell*)**

This bill modifies provisions related to the Utah State Fair Corporation Act.

This bill:

- ▶ adds an additional member, recommended by the Utah Farm Bureau Federation, to the board of directors of the Utah State Fair Corporation; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**H.C.R. 13      Concurrent Resolution for Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program (*Rep. J. Dunnigan and Sen. C. Bramble*)**

This concurrent resolution directs the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program to maintain the current benefit design notwithstanding actuarial equivalency requirements, and to refund part of the excess dental reserves.

This resolution:

- ▶ directs the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program to maintain current benefit design for all plans notwithstanding requirements for actuarial equivalency;
- ▶ uses some of the medical renewal to reduce employee premium contribution; and
- ▶ refunds part of the excess dental reserves.

**S.B. 18      Firefighters' Disability Retirement Benefit Amendments (*Sen. K. Mayne and Rep. D. McCay*)**

This bill modifies the Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act by amending provisions relating to firefighter disability benefits.

This bill:

- ▶ provides and amends definitions;
- ▶ modifies the standard for determining a disability for members of the Firefighters' Retirement System; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**S.B. 19      Retirement Systems Payments to Survivors Amendments (*Sen. M. Dayton and Rep. K. Grover*)**

This bill modifies the Utah State Retirement and Benefit Insurance Act by amending provisions relating to retirement beneficiary designations.

This bill:

- ▶ provides that the divorce or annulment of a member's marriage revokes any beneficiary designation naming the divorced member's former spouse;
- ▶ specifies the methods for reviving a former spouse as a member's designated beneficiary in certain circumstances; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**S.B. 20                    Phased Retirement Amendments (*Sen. D. Hemmert and Rep. J. Moss*)**

This bill modifies the Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act by amending provisions relating to phased retirement.

This bill:

- ▶ amends definitions;
- ▶ modifies the application procedures for a phased retirement agreement;
- ▶ modifies provisions regarding the beginning and termination periods for phased retirement employment; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**S.B. 21                    Retirement Systems Amendments (*Sen. D. Hemmert and Rep. J. Moss*)**

This bill modifies the Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act by amending retirement and insurance provisions.

This bill:

- ▶ modifies the responsibility for certain functions within the Utah Retirement Systems;
- ▶ modifies an exception to the postretirement reemployment restrictions;
- ▶ modifies certain retiree notification and benefit conversion provisions relating to retirement options affected by death or divorce;
- ▶ specifies additional names for the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**S.B. 92                    Workers' Compensation Fund Revisions (*Sen. C. Bramble and Rep. V. Peterson*)**

This bill repeals the statute creating the Workers' Compensation Fund and makes conforming amendments.

This bill:

- ▶ repeals the statute creating the Workers' Compensation Fund;
- ▶ removes statutory references to the Workers' Compensation Fund;
- ▶ addresses the obligation to write workers' compensation insurance and residual market mechanisms;
- ▶ provides for the Workers' Compensation Fund's transition to a mutual corporation;
- ▶ modifies membership on the workers' compensation advisory council;
- ▶ addresses methods to obtain workers' compensation insurance;
- ▶ amends the provision addressing penalty for failure to obtain workers' compensation;
- ▶ modifies the provision addressing exemptions for employees temporarily in state;
- ▶ addresses continuing education requirements for contractor licensees; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.

**S.B. 109                  Small Employer Retirement Program (*Sen. T. Weiler and Rep. G. Froerer*)**

This bill enacts provisions relating to tax credits for small employers.

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms; and
- ▶ establishes an income tax credit for certain small employers that offer employees access to a qualified retirement plan.

**S.B. 156                      Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund Amendments (*Sen. T. Weiler and Rep. T. Hawkes*)**

This bill modifies the Public Safety Code by amending provisions relating to line-of-duty death benefits.

This bill:

- ▶ amends health coverage requirements for a surviving spouse and children of a member whose death is classified as a line-of-duty death;
- ▶ provides that a law enforcement agency or other state or local government agency that employs one or more public safety service employees or firefighter service employees who are eligible to earn service credit in a Utah Retirement System is required to participate in the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund;
- ▶ amends procedures for participating in the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund;
- ▶ authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to enter into a contract with a third party administrator to administer the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**S.B. 195                      Government Transparency Revisions (*Sen. D. Henderson and Rep. G. Froerer*)**

This bill modifies provisions related to the Utah Public Finance Website.

This bill:

- ▶ provides that certain independent entities, housing authorities, and entities entering into interlocal agreements are subject to the reporting requirements of the Utah Public Finance Website; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**S.B. 198                      Utah Communications Authority Amendments (*Sen. W. Harper and Rep. J. Knotwell*)**

This bill amends provisions related to providing 911 emergency service.

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ repeals a 911 emergency service charge;
- 1 ▶ modifies the composition of the Utah Communications Authority Board;
- ▶ modifies the duties of the Utah Communications Authority;
- ▶ creates regional advisory committees that report to the Utah Communications Authority Board;
- ▶ creates an operations advisory committee;
- ▶ repeals certain provisions that gave the Utah Communications Authority bonding authority;
- ▶ imposes certain charges on each access line within the state, and provides for the collection of the charges and the distribution of the proceeds of the charges;
- ▶ directs the State Tax Commission to distribute the proceeds of a 911 emergency service charge to public safety answering points within the state according to a formula based on a public safety answering point's proportion of total 911 emergency communications;
- ▶ provides that a public agency may not establish a new public safety answering point after a certain day;
- ▶ directs the State Tax Commission to report on access line providers that are delinquent in paying emergency service charges;
- ▶ requires the Utah Communications Authority to meet with stakeholders to identify existing communications sites and develop a plan for the public safety communications network;
- ▶ provides future repeal dates;

- ▶ provides future effective dates;
- ▶ designates appropriations from certain restricted accounts as nonlapsing;
- ▶ repeals certain advisory committees within the Utah Communications Authority;
- ▶ requires a county to conduct an audit of the county's emergency services under certain circumstances; and
- ▶ delegates, to the executive director of the Utah Communications Authority, certain duties formerly assigned to divisions within the Utah Communications Authority.

**S.C.R. 1            Concurrent Resolution on Increasing Pay for Certain Public Safety Officers and Firefighters**  
*(Sen. T. Weiler and Rep. T. Hawkes)*

This concurrent resolution encourages a pay increase for the public safety officers and firefighters who are Tier II retirement system members.

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the vital roles of public safety officers and firefighters;
- ▶ recognizes the necessity of creating the Tier II retirement system in order to stabilize participating employers' pension funding obligations and control future retirement benefit costs;
- ▶ acknowledges that starting wages for public safety officers and firefighters are below market starting wages;
- ▶ acknowledges that the Tier II annual employers' savings provide the opportunity and means to fund a pay increase; and
- ▶ encourages the state of Utah, as well as the other employers of public safety officers and firefighters throughout the state, to provide a pay increase for its public safety officer and firefighter employees who are Tier II members.